

## CLAIMS

1. A read out method for reading out an identification number from a responder storing identification numbers, wherein

a responder transmits a modulated signal obtained by modulating a first and a second clock pulse having different clock pulse intervals from a transmission/reception circuit,

the page number to be stored by the responder is counted up as an initial value at the first clock pulse, and

the identification number transmitted from the responder is read out at the second clock pulse when the counter has counted up from the initial value to a predetermined value.

2. A read out method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the clock pulse interval of the first clock pulse is longer than that of the second clock pulse.

3. A read out method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the first and the second clock pulse are modulated by the ASK,

the identification number transmitted by the responder is modulated by the ASK before being transmitted, and

presence/absence of the responder is checked by the modulation signal of the first bit of the identification number transmitted from the responder.

4. A read out method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the initial value of the page number is set in the responder by the first or the second clock pulse which is firstly transmitted from the transmission/reception circuit to the responder.

5. A read out method as claimed in claim 1, when the read out of the identification number fails, the second clock pulse is continuously transmitted from the transmission/reception circuit and the read out of the identification number is retried.

6. A responder comprising:

a first memory for storing an identification number,

a transmission/reception unit for receiving a modulation signal from the responder, extracting a first and a second clock pulse having different clock pulse intervals, and transmitting the identification number,

a counter, and

a second memory for storing the page number set as an initial value of the counter,

wherein when the counter has counted up from the initial value to a predetermined value, the transmission/reception unit transmits the identification number.

7. A responder as claimed in claim 6, wherein the counter counts up the first clock pulse using the page number as the initial value,

the counter counts the second clock pulse,  
and

each bit of the identification number is  
accessed by using the count value by the second clock  
pulse.

8. A responder as claimed in claim 6, wherein  
the clock pulse interval of the first clock pulse is  
longer than that of the second clock pulse.

9. A responder as claimed in claim 6, wherein  
the second memory stores a plurality of page numbers of  
different values.

10. A responder as claimed in claim 6, wherein  
the transmission/reception unit modulates the  
identification number by the ASK before transmitting  
it, and

the first bit of the identification number  
expressed by a large or small amplitude and transmitted  
is a bit corresponding to the large amplitude.

11. A responder as claimed in claim 6, wherein  
the second memory stores each bit of the page number in  
a through hole formed at the portion where an electron  
beam is applied.

12. An interrogator for reading out an  
identification number from a responder for storing an  
identification number, the interrogator comprising a  
transmission/reception circuit, wherein

the transmission/reception circuit transmits  
a modulated signal obtained by modulating a first and a

second clock pulse having two different clock pulse intervals, to the responder,

the first clock pulse counts up the page number stored in the responder as the initial value, and

the second clock pulse is read out at the second clock pulse when the counter has counted up from the initial value to a predetermined value.

13. An interrogator as claimed in claim 12, wherein the clock pulse interval of the first clock pulse is longer than that of the second clock pulse.

14. An interrogator as claimed in claim 12, wherein

the transmission/reception circuit modulates the first and the second clock pulse by the ASK,

the identification number transmitted by the responder is modulated by the ASK before being transmitted, and

presence/absence of the responder is checked by the modulation signal of the first bit of the identification number transmitted by the responder.

15. An interrogator as claimed in claim 12, wherein the initial value of the page number is set in the responder by the first or the second clock pulse firstly transmitted to the responder from the transmission/reception circuit.